

# Taste and Other Tales

Photocopiable

**While reading**

**Taste**

- 1 Answer these questions.**
- a Does Richard Pratt drink the first wine?
  - b Why is the claret in the study?
  - c What is Mike's first bet?
  - d What does Pratt then ask him to bet?
  - e What does Mike's wife think of the bet?
  - f What does Mike say to Louise to show that he is very confident?
  - g Does Pratt guess the name of the wine correctly?
  - h How does he do this?
- 2 Put these events in the right order.**
- a ☐ Mike goes and gets the claret.
  - b ☐ Richard bets his two houses.
  - c ☐ Mike, his wife and daughter and Richard Pratt get ready for dinner.
  - d ☐ Richard wants Mike to bet the hand of his wife in marriage.
  - e ☐ They eat fish with a Mosel wine.
  - f ☐ Richard guesses where the wine comes from.
  - g ☐ They bet a case of the wine.

**A Swim**

- 3 Correct these sentences.**
- a Mr Botibol bets on the speed of the ship.
  - b Mr Botibol consults the captain.
  - c Mr Botibol wants a new house.
  - d Mr Botibol has plenty of possibilities to win the bet.
  - e The woman at the end of the story is very reliable.
- 4 Who says the sentences below, and who do they say them to? What are they talking about?**
- a 'Going at a 150 ...'  
.....
  - b 'Two hundred!!'  
.....
  - c 'About how long do you think he did it?'  
.....
  - d 'What shall I do?'  
.....
  - e 'I'm very lazy.'  
.....

**Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's Coat**

- 5 Find words in the story to show that these statements are false.**
- a Mrs Bixby goes to see the Colonel twice a month.
  - b Mrs Bixby is disappointed by the Colonel's letter.
  - c Aunt Maude is very rich.
  - d Pawnbrokers never give people the full value of the goods they exchange.
  - e Mrs Bixby likes the way her husband dresses.
  - f Mr Bixby does not think his wife will be pleased with the present from the pawnbroker's.

**The Way up to Heaven**

- 6 Who is being described in questions (a) and (b) and who is speaking to whom in questions (c)–(g)?**
- a She began walking up and down the hall and whenever the butler came by, she asked him the time.
  - b He walked down the stairs slowly, pausing halfway to look at the sky.
  - c 'I warned Mr Foster that you must leave at 9.15.'
  - d 'I'm just going to wash my hands.'
  - e 'Well ... how was Paris?'
  - f 'I must have left it in my bedroom.'
  - g 'Isn't your husband travelling with you?'
- 7 Make true sentences about the story using the following words in each one.**
- a fear – plane – train
  - b unnecessary – Mr Foster
  - c six-floor house – New York
  - d study – ready
  - e Paris – alone

**The Sound Machine**

- 8 Find the questions for the following answers.**
- a Because Klausner phones him.
  - b Plants cry.
  - c Because she is afraid of Klausner. She thinks he is acting crazy.
  - d Because Klausner phones him again.
  - e The branch makes a horrifying sound, as if it were crying.
  - f Because he thinks Klausner is mad so agrees to use iodine.



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## *The Leg of Lamb*

**9 Put these events in the correct order.**

- a ☐ Mrs Maloney telephones the police.
- b ☐ Mrs Maloney gives Jack a drink.
- c ☐ Patrick tells his wife some bad news.
- d ☐ Mrs Maloney goes to the shop.
- e ☐ Mrs Maloney kills her husband.
- f ☐ Mrs Maloney puts the meat in the oven.
- g ☐ A doctor and a photographer come to the house.
- h ☐ Jack Noonan arrives.
- i ☐ A policeman goes to the shop.
- j ☐ The policemen have a meal.

## *Birth and Fate*

**10 Find the correct answer to these questions.**

- a Which of the woman's other children was the oldest? .....
  - 1) Gustav
  - 2) Otto
  - 3) Ida
- b Which of her other children died first? .....
  - 1) Gustav
  - 2) Otto
  - 3) Ida
- c What is her husband's job? .....
  - 1) police officer
  - 2) postman
  - 3) customs officer
- d Where do they live now? .....
  - 1) Berlin
  - 2) Belgium
  - 3) Braunau
- e Who helps the doctor with the birth? .....
  - 1) the barman's daughter
  - 2) the barman's wife
  - 3) the barman's mother
- f What is the problem with all the woman's children? .....
  - 1) They are all small.
  - 2) They all get sick.
  - 3) They all die.

- g What does the woman's husband think about the new baby? .....
  - 1) that he is strong.
  - 2) that he is too small.
  - 3) that he will not survive.

## *Poison*

**11 Put these events in chronological order.**

- a ☐ Timber phones Dr Ganderbai.
- b ☐ Harry reads a book.
- c ☐ The krait sleeps on Harry's stomach.
- d ☐ Dr Ganderbai gives Harry the serum.
- e ☐ Harry sees the krait.
- f ☐ Dr Ganderbai arrives.
- g ☐ The krait moves under the sheet.
- h ☐ Harry does not move for hours.
- i ☐ Timber gets the chloroform.
- j ☐ Timber arrives.
- k ☐ Timber gets the knife.

## **After reading**

- 12 Write a detailed description of one of the characters in one of the stories. Do not say who it is. Read the description aloud and ask the other members of the class to guess who it can be and why.
- 13 What will happen to these people? What will they do now?
  - Mrs Bixby
  - Mrs Foster
  - Ida Hitler
  - Harry Pope
  - Dr Ganderbai
  - Mr Schofield
  - Richard Pratt
  - Mrs Maloney
  - Klausner



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### 1 Match the first half of the sentences (a)–(e) with the second half (1)–(5).

- a Richard Pratt is .....
- b Mike always .....
- c Mrs Schofield .....
- d Richard Pratt does not .....
- e Mike keeps .....
  - 1) does not agree with the betting game.
  - 2) the wine in his study.
  - 3) famous for his love of food and wine.
  - 4) smoke any kind of cigar.
  - 5) plays a betting game.

### 2 Answer these questions.

- a What does Mr Botibol bet on exactly? How much does he pay?
- b What does he wait for before he goes to bed?
- c Why is he alarmed the next morning?
- d Who does he see on the deck?
- e What is the reason he gives the lady for being in the deck at the moment?

### 3 Write questions for these answers.

- a To visit a gentleman known as the Colonel.
- b A mink coat.
- c Fifty dollars.
- d On the seat of her taxi.
- e Because she doesn't want him to recognize her.

### 4 Complete the text using the following words.

missing three anxiety Paris daughter  
Mrs Foster suffered from (a) ..... every time she had to travel by train or plane. She was especially concerned about not (b) ..... this specific plane which was taking her to (c) ..... to visit her (d) ..... and (e) ..... grandchildren.

### 5 Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones.

- a Klausner has bought a machine to hear sounds that we cannot normally hear. ....
- b Klausner is a tall, strong man. ....
- c Klausner hears the flowers scream when they are cut. ....
- d He asks Mrs Saunders to cut another flower. ....
- e Klausner phones the doctor very late at night. ....

### 6 Match (a)–(e) with (1)–(5) to make true sentences.

- a Mary Maloney was .....
- b Patrick Maloney was .....
- c Patrick decided .....
- d Mary was married .....
- e Sam .....
  - 1) to a policeman.
  - 2) six months pregnant.
  - 3) to leave his wife.
  - 4) a policeman.
  - 5) sold vegetables to Mary.

### 7 Complete the sentences with the correct character from the story.

- a ..... believes the baby is all right.
- b ..... was Klara's first son.
- c ..... is the fourth baby.
- d ..... is afraid of losing her child.
- e ..... was given a post in Braunau.

### 8 Choose the appropriate sentence to answer the questions.

- a How did the snake get into Harry's bed? ....
  - 1) He put it there.
  - 2) It crawled into the bed.
  - 3) It appeared unexpectedly.
- b What did Timber plan to do if Harry was bitten? ....
  - 1) Cut the flesh and suck the poison.
  - 2) Cut the snake into pieces.
  - 3) Use a knife to kill the snake.
- c What does Harry suggest to Timber? ....
  - 1) Call the doctor.
  - 2) Find the snake.
  - 3) Remove the sheet.
- d Why does Harry not want a cold cloth on his face? ....
  - 1) He gets very cold.
  - 2) He wants to cough.
  - 3) It makes him move.
- e Why did Harry start jumping in the air? ....
  - 1) Because he is happy now.
  - 2) Because the doctor tells him to.
  - 3) Because he wants to check if the snake is there.